

some Eriogoneae and in some true
Polygoneae the ovaries pass into distinct
stipules - They are also alternate but you
will observe the flowers are not strictly
speaking axillary but between the axillary
branch and the larger branch - That is in
the fork of a dichotomy & then again
in the whole group. I will take care to state your
views & where they differ from mine

In a paper of yours "read Feb 12 1837" you
have very well pointed out the relationship
of Ceratopeltis flues to Cabomba and Elminium
have you ever followed it up? I see you
do not allude to it in your Monocot or Dicot
anywhere else. Carnei Mus. Scien. Brit.
Plat. VIII. 20 from an examination of
living specimens say that the terminal
horn is not the style as is generally supposed
but that the true stigmal style is a slight
protuberance at the base - I can not verify
this on dried specimens and it is not in
flower yet. I have no doubt he may
be right but if so I cannot agree with
him that what we call the perianth in
the female is not homologous to the male
perianth but an involution and that the

25, WILTON PLACE.
S.W.

June 24/79

My dear Gray

Many thanks for yours of the 19th
May. I have spent the morning over
the plants you mention and am very
wary to say I cannot be convinced
by your arguments although I have
always so great a reliance on the
correctness of your views that I bring
forward my own in opposition with
the greatest reluctance

I still think that *Dactyloa*, *Nemacanth*,
and *Hottentotia* - and *Sterigzia* and
Rozisia form one or if you like it
two groups intermediate between
Eriogoneae and Polygoneae differing
from the former in the want of the
cauline from the latter in

inflorescence and in the reduced or absent ocrea.

The whole of *Polygonaceae* are so uniform in specific floral and carpological characters that one is obliged to class them chiefly upon habit inflorescence ^{foliage} and outward modifications often fruit all secondary characters, and in such secondary characters the above genera form the connection between *Eriogoneae* and *Polygonae*.

The involucel of *Eriogoneae* is constant and to my eye has no equal representation in other groups of *Polygonaceae*.

You say the three leaves forming the involucel of *Chorizanthe rigidula* correspond to the three outer empty bracts of the whorl in *Lactucaea*. I cannot agree & that the arrangement of the bracts in *Lactucae* is difficult to trace the specimens are so very brittle but by boiling I get them to

show rather better - within the whorl of stemleaves I find the lowest flower spike within one of the leaves of the whorl and the others within distinct narrow bracts, of which some appear to be without flower but because there are no bracts to each flower nor any thence as forming one whorl whilst in *C. rigidula* the involucel is quite like that of other *Chorizanthes* except that the bracts are separate to rather below the middle and are only 3 the usual smaller intermediate ones quite wanting.

Then you say take off the involucel of *L. angustatum* and you have just *Nemanealis* - begging your pardon I think that is rather a Baillorianan saying "take away the specific characters of a genus and you have something else" I find no representative of the involucels of *Eriogoneae* in any other tribe of *Polygonaceae* I cannot admit as such the three outer empty bracts of *Nemanealis* for they are on the main stem and not axillary as in the ^{the} ^{others} of *Eriogoneae* and corresponding to the long and regular of *Helleraea* the leaves of *Helleraea* you send me as you may anticipate so are they often in

horn belongs to the true perianth
If he is right as to the style then the
terminal as well as the basal horns
are mere tubercular excrescences of
the perianth as occurs in many
plants

Your very sincerely
George Bentham